

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 04393 291040Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /063 W

-----291440Z 022017 /53

R 290955Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6500

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4393

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: EDA DEPARTS JSP TO FORM NEW PARTY

REF: TOKYO 3788

SUMMARY: FORMER JSP VICE CHAIRMAN EDA HAS RESIGNED FROM JSP TO FORM NEW PARTY AND RUN IN JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. HIS RESIGNATION IS BLOW TO JSP AND, IF EDA IS SUCCESSFUL IN UPPER HOUSE BID, IT WILL OPEN UP POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL SOCIALIST DEFECTIONS AND HEIGHTEN MOOD OF IMPENDING POLITICAL CHANGE. END SUMMARY.

1. LONG-TIME JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) LEADER SABURO EDA ANNOUNCED MARCH 26 HIS RESIGNATION FROM JSP AND HIS INTENTION TO FORM "SOCIALIST CITIZENS' LEAGUE"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 04393 291040Z

AND RUN IN JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION FROM NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY.

2. IN LISTING HIS REASONS FOR LEAVING JSP, EDA SAID HIS REFORM EFFORTS OVER YEARS WITHIN PARTY HAD BEEN TO NO AVAIL AND THAT JSP WAS NOW UNABLE TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES OF "COALITION ERA" AND UNABLE TO APPEAL TO

BROAD MASSES. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE HAD LEFT ALONE,
BUT HELD OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT OTHERS WITHIN JSP
SYMPATHETIC TO HIM MIGHT RESIGN FROM JSP TO JOIN HIM.

3. EDA SAID HE WAS FORMING "SOCIALIST CITIZENS' LEAGUE"
(SCL--TENTATIVE NAME) BECAUSE LEFT'S GREATEST TASK WAS
TO ATTRACT UNCOMMITTED JAPANESE VOTERS (NOW ESTIMATED AT
BETWEEN ONE-FOURTH AND ONE-THIRD OF ELECTORATE). IT
WAS ESSENTIAL, EDA SAID, THAT NEW PARTY BE OPEN TO ALL
AND OPEN IN ITS MANAGEMENT AND POLICY FORMULATION. POINTING
UP SCL'S POLICY DIRECTIONS, EDA CITED FIRM
MAINTENANCE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, COMPLETE SEPARATION
OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POWERS, AND EFFECTIVE USE OF
MARKET SYSTEM UNDER FIRM GROUND RULES. THERE WERE NO
FOREIGN POLICY PLANKS. EDA NOTED THAT IN "AGE OF
FLUIDITY," EVEN SMALL NUMBERS COUNTED IF ONE COULD
"FORMULATE POLICY."

4. IN DISCUSSING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR UPPER HOUSE, EDA
LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT SCL WOULD FIELD TEN CANDIDATES,
MAKING IT ELIGIBLE FOR FORMAL RECOGNITION AS POLITICAL
PARTY. EDA SAID GROUP WOULD RELY ON VOLUNTEER SUPPORT,
WHICH APPEARS THUS FAR TO BE MAINLY EFFORTS OF REGIONAL,
MOSTLY URBAN, POCKETS OF EDA SUPPORTERS.

5. COMMENTING ON OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS, EDA SAID HE
HAD RESIGNED HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION IN "SOCIETY TO THINK
ABOUT A NEW JAPAN" BUT RETAINED TIES TO ORGANIZATION AND
TO LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS WITHIN JSP. (INASMUCH AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 04393 291040Z

SOCIETY IS COMMITTED TO BACK ITS PRIME-MOVER'S SON,
TATSURO MATSUMAE, IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, ITS RESOURCES
WERE COMMITTED AND EDA HAD TO FIND HIMSELF ANOTHER
LABEL.) EDA WAS CRITICAL OF DSP BUT, HE SAID, IT WAS
IMPORTANT THAT DSP, ALONG WITH CGP, NOT BE DRIVEN INTO
CONSERVATIVE CAMP. HE HAD NO COMMENT ON NLC.

6. RESPONDING TO EDA MOVE, JSP LEADERSHIP IMPLIED EDA
IRRESPONSIBILITY AND STRESSED PARTY UNITY. CGP AND DSP
WISHED HIM WELL BUT OFFERED NO ELECTION COOPERATION.
JSP WAS HOSTILE, LDP NONCOMMITTAL AND NLC CAUTIOUS.
EDITORIAL REACTION HAS ALSO BEEN CAUTIOUS, STRESSING
SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF EDA MOVE, CALLING ON JSP TO
RECONSIDER ITS CURRENT RELEVANCE AND EDA TO CLARIFY
FUTURE COURSE. PRESS APPLAUDED, HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL
EVIDENCE OF CENTRIST TENDENCY IN JAPANESE POLITICS.

7. COMMENT. EDA DEPARTURE IS CLEARLY BLOW TO JSP,
REINFORCING ITS PRESENT MARKED LEFTIST IMAGE AND POSING

SIGNIFICANT ELECTION CHALLENGE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, ABOUT PROSPECTS OF EDA UPPER
HOUSE ELECTION SUCCESS. HE HAS LITTLE APPARENT
ORGANIZED SUPPORT AND EXTENT TO WHICH HE CAN DRAW FROM
JSP, DSP AND CGP IS UNCLEAR; PRIMIN FUKUDA, NO NEWCOMER
TO POLITICS, SUGGESTS EDA GAINS WILL BE AT EXPENSE OF
DSP AND CGP. ELECTION LOSS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY
MEAN QUICK DEMISE OF EDA AND EDA GROUP AS POLITICAL
FORCES. ON OTHER HAND, VICTORY, PARTICULARLY BY LARGE
MARGIN, WOULD OPEN UP POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL
DEFECTIONS FROM JSP, NEW COMPLEXITIES IN DIET MANAGEMENT,
AND HEIGHTEN MOOD OF IMPENDING CHANGE IN JAPANESE
POLITICAL SPECTRUM.
SHOESMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO04393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0503
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977039/aaaaahty.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45c612bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 3788
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3198849
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDA DEPARTS JSP TO FORM NEW PARTY
TAGS: PINT, JA, JSP, (EDA, SABURO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45c612bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009